GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3159
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has been disappointment to country and that instead of leading to greater market access for countries like India, the developed world has raised its trade barriers and hike subsidies on agricultural products;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and strategy made in this regard; and

(c) the details of trade barriers the country is facing due to WTO agreements?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(c): WTO Agreements have provided a predicatable rule based multilateral trading system which protects developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed countries. By virtue of signing of WTO agreement India is automatically entitled to get the treatment of most favoured nation (MFN) from all WTO members forits exports. There are both rights and obligations accruing from membership of the WTO.

As per Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reportthe support to agriculture in OECD countries has increased from US$ 308 billion in 1986-88 to US$ 361 billion in 1999.

India`s negotiating proposals submitted to WTO for mandated negotiations underAgreement on Agriculture aims at protecting its food and livelihood security and creating increased market access opportunities with a view to promote agricultural exports. Further, in the recently concluded 4th Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Doha,Member Countries have committed themselves to negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade distorting domestic support and phasing out of export subsidies. Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries including recognition of food security and rural development have now become an integral part of the mandated agricultural negotiations.